

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven laminate comprising one inner layer of tufted material having a plurality of projections, each of the plurality of projections surrounded by a valley and located between at least two outer layers of nonwoven material, wherein the nonwoven laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two outer layers and wherein the one inner layer of tufted material is one layer of a bi-layer structure, the bi-layer structure also comprising one of the at least two outer layers of nonwoven material.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven laminate of claim 1 wherein the tufted material is comprised of polymer and the nonwoven material is coform.

4. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven laminate of claim 1 wherein the nonwoven material is a nonwoven absorbent material.

5. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven laminate comprising at least two layers of tufted material, the at least two layers of tufted material having opposing bondable projections oriented inwardly to produce an internally tufted laminate, wherein the nonwoven laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two layers and a valley surrounds each of the projections, wherein opposing valleys form a void volume between the at least two layers of tufted material.

6. (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 5 further comprising at least two outer layers of nonwoven composite material surrounding ~~wherein at least one of the~~ at least two layers of tufted material ~~has a bi-layer structure.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 6 wherein each of the at least two layers of tufted material is one layer of a bi-layer structure, each bi-layer structure also comprising one of the at least two outer layers of ~~comprises the tufted material and an outer layer of~~ nonwoven composite material.

8. (Original) The laminate of claim 7 wherein the nonwoven composite material is coform.

9. (Original) The laminate of claim 8 wherein the tufted material is a wire-tufted material comprised primarily of meltblown polymer.

10. (Original) The laminate of claim 9 wherein the meltblown polymer is a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene polybutylene, copolymers, and mixtures and blends thereof.

11. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 5 wherein the opposing bondable projections are thermally bondable.

12. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each projection measures between about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

13. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each projection measures at least about one (1) mm in length.

14. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each projection measures at least about two (2) mm in length.

15. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each projection measures at least about three (3) mm in length.

16. (Currently Amended) An internally tufted laminate comprising:

at least two coform outer layers surrounding an inner layer of tufted meltblown material, the inner layer having an identifiable pattern of bondable projections each having an interior, the bondable projections each surrounded by a valley, wherein each interior forms a depression visible from an exterior surface of the laminate, wherein the internally tufted laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two outer coform layers and wherein valleys form a void volume between the at least two coform outer layers.

17-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The internally tufted laminate of claim 16 wherein the identifiable pattern is substantially uniform.

21. (Previously Presented) The internally tufted laminate of claim 16 wherein the laminate is a disposable product selected from the group consisting of diaper, tissue, towel, wipe and any component or portion of a diaper, tissue, towel or wipe.

22. (Currently Amended) An absorbent sheet comprising:

an internally tufted laminate having at least two layers of tufted material located between at least two outer layers, the at least two layers of tufted material having opposing bondable individual tufts oriented inwardly and configured to form an identifiable pattern, wherein a valley surrounds each of the individual tufts and opposing valleys form a void volume between the at least two layers of tufted material ~~located between at least two outer layers~~, wherein the absorbent sheet does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two outer layers; and

an added liquid to provide suitable wiping properties.

23. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein the added liquid is selected from the group consisting of water, emollients, surfactants, fragrances, preservatives, chelating agents,

pH buffers and combinations thereof.

24. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 23 further comprising additives selected from the group consisting of lotions, medicaments, and combinations thereof.

25. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein the absorbent sheet is a personal care wet wipe.

26. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 23 wherein the sheet is disposable.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring between about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

29. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about one (1) mm in length.

30. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about two (2) mm in length.

31. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about three (3) mm in length.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein the identifiable pattern is substantially uniform.

34-49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven laminate comprising at least two layers of tufted material, the at least two layers having opposing tufts oriented inwardly ~~to produce an internally tufted laminate~~, wherein each tuft is a projection surrounded by a valley, with opposing valleys forming a void volume between the at least two layers, wherein the projection measures ~~measuring~~ at least about one (1) mm in length.

51. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 50 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about two (2) mm in length.

52. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 50 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about three (3) mm in length.

53. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 50 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring between about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

54. (Currently Amended) An absorbent sheet comprising:
an internally tufted laminate comprised of a plurality of individual tufts located on at least two layers of material and configured to have an identifiable pattern, wherein each individual tuft is a bondable projection surrounded by a valley and oriented inwardly towards an opposing projection, wherein opposing valleys form a void volume between the at least two layers and each projection measures ~~and measuring~~ at least about one (1) mm in length; and
an added liquid to provide suitable wiping properties.

55. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about two (2) mm in length.

56. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about three (3) mm in length.

57. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring between about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein the identifiable pattern is substantially uniform.

60. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven laminate of claim 1 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer layers.

61. (Currently Amended) The ~~nonwoven~~ laminate of claim [[5]] 6 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer layers.

62. (Currently Amended) The internally tufted laminate of claim 16 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer coform layers.

63. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer layers.

64. (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven laminate comprising two layers of tufted material having a plurality of projections, each surrounded by a valley, wherein the plurality of projections are configured to form an identifiable pattern and are oriented towards each other to produce an internally tufted laminate in which opposing projections are in contact and at least some of the opposing projections are bonded bondable to one another, wherein opposing valleys form a void volume between the two layers of tufted material and wherein the nonwoven laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the two layers of tufted material.

66. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 65 wherein at least one of the two layers of tufted material has a bi-layer structure.

67. (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 66 comprising two bi-layer structures, wherein each bi-layer structure comprises a layer of the tufted material and an outer layer of nonwoven composite material.

68. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 67 wherein the nonwoven composite material is coform.

69. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 68 wherein the tufted material is comprised primarily of meltblown polymer.

70. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 69 wherein the meltblown polymer is a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene polybutylene, copolymers, and mixtures and blends thereof.

71. (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 65 wherein the two layers of tufted material are thermally ~~bondable~~ bonded.

72. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 65 wherein the two layers of tufted material are located between two outer layers of nonwoven material.

73-78. (Canceled)

79. (Currently Amended) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein the opposing tufts are in contact with each other, ~~further wherein opposing valleys surrounding each tuft create a void volume therebetween.~~

80. (Currently Amended) The ~~nonwoven~~ laminate of claim 50 wherein the opposing

tufts are in contact with each other, ~~further wherein opposing valleys surrounding each tuft create a void volume therebetween.~~

81. (Currently Amended) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein the opposing projections are in contact with each other, ~~further wherein opposing valleys surrounding each projection create a void volume therebetween.~~

82. (Canceled)

83. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven laminate comprising at least two tufted layers, each tufted layer having individual projections surrounded by valleys, wherein the individual projections and valleys of each layer are opposing projections and valleys, wherein the opposing valleys create a void volume ~~therebetween~~ between the at least two tufted layers.

84. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 83 further comprising at least two outer layers of nonwoven material surrounding the at least two layers of tufted material.

85. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 84 comprising two tufted layers.

86. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 83 wherein the opposing projections are bondable to each other.

87. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven laminate comprising:
an internally tufted laminate having at least two layers of tufted material, each of the at least two layers having projections oriented inwardly, the projections surrounded by valleys, wherein opposing valleys form a void volume between the at least two layers and the projections are and formed by being pulled through a porous forming surface.

88. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 87 further comprising at least two outer layers of nonwoven material surrounding the at least two layers of tufted material.

89. (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 88 further comprising an added liquid to provide suitable wiping properties, wherein the nonwoven laminate is produce an absorbent sheet.

90. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 87 wherein the porous forming surface is a wire.